

## ITEMS OF INTEREST.

### Personal and Literary.

—Mary L. Booth, editor of *Harper's Bazar*, is described as a matronly looking woman, with no nonsense about her.

—Mrs. Matilda Fletcher of Des Moines, Iowa, has been offered \$3,000, for a lecture tour in Colorado, upon "Social Science."

—Donald G. Mitchell is writing a history of the republic of Venice, the material for which was in part gathered by him while Consul in that city in 1853-55.

—Mr. W. S. Gilbert, author of "Pinafore," is a tall, lank, raw-boned Scotch lawyer, with sandy hair and whiskers. His face is usually wrinkled with an expression of great nervous irritability, and his temper is of the shortest.

—Tennyson as Laureate has written a poem dedicated to the Princess Alice, which leads the *Echo*, of London, to remark that it is satisfactory to know that he is "doing something for the £100 he receives annually from the people's taxes."

—Two of the most striking figures in the Paris salons are Ivan Turgeneff, with his imposing stature and flowing white hair, and Emile de Girardin, who, though 70 years old, is the most brilliant, witty, and youthful of Frenchmen.

—Beranger, who forbade that a stone should be erected over his grave, is to be complimented with a statue next year, on the hundredth anniversary of his birth. Victor Hugo is chairman of the committee for raising funds. George Sand, Michelet, and Rabelais are also soon to have statues.

—Walt Whitman recently appeared in New York City for the first time as a public lecturer. His long, full beard and flowing hair are snow-white, but his face has the ruddy glow of health. He recited his recollections of Abraham Lincoln in his peculiar graphic and striking language. He announced with much naïveté that he desired to make engagements as a lecturer and reader of his own poems.

—Thomas Hardy, who is the only rival of William Black for the honor of being the most popular of recent English novelists, is 38 years old, and was educated in a provincial village, becoming, as one might fancy from his figures of speech, the apprentice of a country architect. In London, however, he became a student under Bloomfield, and a disciple of the Gothic school. He won prizes in architecture, and studied to be an art critic. Finally he chose fiction.

—Miss J. M. Slocum, a teacher of Canandaigua, N. Y., is winning a place as a writer on political economy. She graduated in the Law Department of Michigan University. She had chosen political economy as a life-study, and the legal studies were pursued with a view to increasing her knowledge of that science. She delivered, some time since, a lecture on "Demand," which met with such distinguished success that she has been called on to repeat it at numerous other places.

### Science and Industry.

—In Paterson, N. J., 30 manufacturing establishments employ over 9,000 men.

—American plate-glass manufacturers are driving their French rivals out of the market.

—The Newark, N. J., cutlery manufacturers have, it is said, more orders than they can fill.

—There is a heavy demand for steel rails, and the Pennsylvania mills are nearly all at work.

—Pittsburg, Scranton and Troy are furnishing steel rails for the Southern Pacific Railroad.

—Birmingham, Eng., is importing hay-forks, cloaks, apple-parers and clothes-pins from Philadelphia.

—The Philadelphia Locomotive Works has 1,900 men engaged on locomotives for Australia, and it is busier than since 1873.

—The Troy Bessemer steel works are producing over 1,200 tons weekly—an unexampled product.

—Well informed persons estimate that the British emigration to the United States this year will reach 300,000.

—The crop prospects in the Southern California coast counties are better than at any other time for the past seven years.

—Florida is turning her attention to

the cultivation of rice, which is stated to be a better crop there than wheat is in any other State.

—The industrial authorities and tradesmen of the city of Berlin have arranged for an exhibition to be given on the 1st of May next in a prominent part of Berlin.

—Gen. W. S. Rosecrans is engaged at San Francisco in the manufacture of a patent safety powder, which explodes only under high pressure or at a great heat.

—Stout calico is made waterproof by the Chinese with a preparation which proves efficient in any climate, and is supposed to be composed of the following ingredients: Boiled oil, 1 quart; soft soap, 1 ounce, and beeswax 1 ounce, the whole to be boiled until reduced to three-quarters of its quantity when mixed. The calico treated with this mixture answers well for life-saving apparatus.

—European journals announce a new method of lighting railway cars lately adopted upon the Nicholas road, which connects St. Petersburg with Moscow. The new light is carburetted hydrogen. The lighting apparatus consists of an elegant globe, in which burns a jet of gas supplied from a reservoir in every car. These reservoirs are always filled at both ends of the route, though they contain much more than enough for the journey, so that the immense comfort of a lighted car can be enjoyed even when the train should be "snowed up" all night.

### School and Church.

—Illinois churches received 18,000 members from the Sunday-schools last year.

—A translation of Longfellow's "Song of Hiawatha" has been published at Moscow for the benefit of soldiers disabled in the late war.

—The Sunday-school for the Chinese in Chicago has 26 scholars, and for every scholar a special teacher is provided.

—Fisk University, at Nashville, Tenn., has just received \$50,000 from the Stone estate, through the Rev. W. H. Wilcox.

—The telephone has been successfully introduced into the Breckenridge Street Presbyterian Church at Buffalo, so that the pastor can address at once two congregations two miles apart.

—Six candidates for the Methodist ministry were asked in the conference at Hartford whether they used tobacco. They all replied that they did not. Thereupon the Bishop ejaculated, "Thank God!" A hearty amen resounded from the Conference.

—The Rev. Louis Mazawacanayana-Louis Iron Thunder—once a hostile savage, but now an ordained minister of the Gospel of Christ, is pastor of a church at Buffalo Lake, Dak., consisting of 55 members, all of them full-blooded Dakota Indians.

—The Rev. Joshua V. Himes of Nebraska, formerly a well known "Millerite" preacher in New Hampshire, has joined the Episcopal Church and is now a candidate for holy orders. He is 73 years old, and has been in the ministry 53 years, but is in the enjoyment of vigorous health.

### Haps and Mishaps.

—An old man named Shank was fatally mutilated by a circular saw in a mill at Monterey, Ind.

—At Marysville, O., Otto Conder, aged 17, while loading a rifle was shot through by the ramrod.

—Henry McLaughlin, a Philadelphia boy, died from the effects of being struck in the stomach by a base-ball.

—An infant child of Jacob Clerger, living near Ada, O., was strangled to death while being fed from a bottle by its 3-year-old brother.

—A small child of Mr. Joseph Borda of Sandy District, near Charlestown, W. Va., was scalded to death by the negligence of the cook in allowing it to try to lift a kettle of hot water from the stove.

—The little son of Rev. C. J. Cocke, Sulphur Springs, Texas, climbed up on a yard fence, and, falling, his clothes caught on a nail in such a manner as to hang him by the neck and choke him to death.

—John Bryant, a well-to-do farmer, living at Pander Court House, N. C., and his whole family, consisting of five

persons, were poisoned, Bryant and two others fatally, from eating wild honey.

—Mrs. Everhart of Union Court House, Ind., was horrified upon awakening the other morning to find her baby dead in her arms. As it had been in perfect health, it was probably smothered to death.

—Shaw & Co.'s mill at Silver Springs, Tenn., blew up on the 16th, killing Sam Bransford, seriously wounding Kemp and G. Mallen, badly scalding Shaw, and killing a horse. The mill is a total wreck. The boiler in Hawley & Co.'s steam saw-mill at Shelby, Oceana County, Mich., also exploded on the 16th, killing the engineer and seriously wounding two other persons. The mill was entirely destroyed.

### Foreign Notes.

—Sir Richard Wallace has given 10 new fountains to the city of Paris, which are to be erected against the walls in different parts of the capital. They are of cast iron, and on the same pattern throughout, like those now seen in the streets. A constant supply of filtered water will thus be at the command of the poorer inhabitants in the vicinity of each.

—The royal plate at Windsor is worth \$6,300,000. It includes a gold service ordered by George IV. to dine 140 persons, and a shield formed of snuff boxes worth \$50,000. It includes also a peacock of precious stones of every kind, brought from India, worth \$150,000, and Tippoo's footstool—a tiger's head with crystal teeth and a solid ingot of gold for his tongue.

—John Bright addressed his constituents at Birmingham on the 16th. He was enthusiastically received. The whole tenor of his speech can be gathered from the concluding sentence, which was: "The Government are imbecile at home and turbulent and wicked abroad. I leave them to the judgment of their constituencies and the heavy condemnation of history."

—Ada Hungerford, sister of Mrs. Mackay (wife of the California millionaire), and star of the American colony at Paris, was recently married at Rome with great pomp to Count Telfener. The Pope sent a representative to attend the wedding, which drew out the elite of Roman society, and King Humbert was present at the races with which the day was celebrated. Telfener is connected with railroad operations in South America. He takes his bride to the grand palace built for Victor Emanuel.

—At the Marlborough Club, London, Count Shouvaloff, the Russian Ambassador, played away in a few hours a sum equal to his whole salary, and one of the wealthiest Commoners has been so heavily bitten that he is going into bankruptcy for a total exceeding half a million pounds. Another young politician, heir to a historic coronet, who had been going at a terrible pace, was dragged out of the club to the amazement of the members by his mother, who said, "You are not going to follow Hastings and Newcastle."

—Rudolph, future Emperor of Austria, promises to be an accomplished and scholarly sovereign. He is an excellent linguist, a good scientific student, and has also fine literary abilities. As he desires to speak the language of every race he will one day have to rule over, he is now studying the Turkish, that he may not be at a loss if he ever found himself in Bosnia. He speaks ten languages already, seven or eight of which are used in the Austro-Hungarian Empire. He is very popular with his soldiers, whom he always addresses in Czechian.

### Odds and Ends.

—A sharp letter—Kenos.

—A fast day—the Derby.

—Circuses are grass 'operas.

—Never look a gift gun in the muzzle.

—Circus athletes confidently predict a backward spring.—*Utica Observer*.

—The Army Bill—William Tecumseh Sherman.—*Buffalo Express*.

—A bricklayer may be in a prosperous condition, yet he is always going to the wall.—*Bradford Era*.

—Do they call them spring chickens on account of the elasticity of their joints?—*New York News*.

—The fat boarder called the mold on

the pie an oasis—a green spot on the dessert.—*Boston Transcript*.

—Rye grows seven feet high in Georgia, but the Georgia editor prefers it three fingers high.—*Cincinnati Commercial*.

—A doctor to his son—"Johnny, wouldn't you like to be a doctor?" "No, father." "Why not, my son?" "Why, father, I couldn't even kill a fly."

—The exercise of whipping carpets is recommended for the development of muscle. Don't let your wife do it, or she may get the start of you in development.—*Chicago Journal*.

### Aspirated and Exasperated.

He thought her heart was wholly his,  
As his was wholly hers;  
Her love she whispered in his ear,  
As soft the pussy pears.

When'er she cooed to him, "My dear,  
We'll never, never part."  
Her words were balm unto his soul,  
He knew her well—by heart.

And when her fickle glance was turned  
Upon another flame,  
The words were much the same he used  
When speaking her dear name.

But 'twas as one who'd know of life  
The darker, gloomier part:  
"I know her better than before—  
I know her by her art."  
—*Boston Transcript*.

### The King of Burmah.

The King of Burmah is a little over 20, and he has been barely four months on the throne. He is a tall, well-built personable young man. He is very fair in complexion, has a good forehead, clear, steady eyes, and a firm but pleasant mouth. His chin is full, and somewhat sensual-looking, but withal he is a manly, frank-faced young fellow, and is said to have gained self-possession, and lost the early nervous awkwardness of his new position with great rapidity. Of his character little has yet developed, but circumstances have occurred to prove that he is very far from destitute of a will of his own, and that he has no fondness for any diminution of the royal prerogative. As we passed out of the palace after the interview a house in the palace grounds was pointed out to me, within which had been imprisoned in squalid misery ever since the illness of the late King some twenty male members of the royal blood, who were regarded as likely, if left at large to use efforts for the hindrance of the accession of the lad who now sits on the throne, and who, among the youngest of the sons of his father, was selected to succeed, partly by female influence, partly by reason of the belief of the ministers that he would interpose little obstacle toward the accomplishment of the programme of constitutional reform with which they desire to begin a new reign. And in a stable near by incarcerated there a month ago, are confined three of the ministers, living proofs that constitutional reform is a trickish undertaking, when all the traditions about the throne are those of absolutism, and the youngsters who are soft seeming and pliable when powerless nonentities, learn swiftly to take their own part when placed in a position of power. King-makers, it is true, can be king-breakers, but it is also true that many a king-maker has himself been broken by the king he has made. And I dare say the ministers in the stable there are rather sorry now that they did not make another choice.—*London Times*.

### Novel Insurance.

The Danish "Maiden Assurance" Society is hardly a novelty among insurance systems, for it has been in existence with successful results for several generations in Copenhagen, though thus far confined strictly to the noble class; but we venture to say it is known to comparatively few in this country. According to this plan, as soon as a female child is born to a nobleman he enrolls her name in a certain Association of families of his own class, paying a certain sum, and thereafter a fixed annual amount to the society. When she becomes of age she is entitled to a fixed income and an elegant suite of apartments in a large building of the Association, with gardens and park about it inhabited by other ladies who have entered it under the same conditions. When she dies or marries all this right to income lapses, and the endowment of the Association is swollen by the money paid in. If the lady marries even a year before she comes of age, all the money that has gone into these annual premiums secures nothing for her.